



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center  
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June 8, 1988  
RP:0088

Mr. James K. Ikeda  
Environmental Protection and  
Health Services Division  
Department of Health  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

Dear Mr. Ikeda:

Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC No. 122)  
Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge  
Hanalei, Kauai

The Environmental Center has reviewed the above referenced document with the assistance of Sheila Conant, General Science; Leonard Freed, Zoology; Roger Fujioka, WRRRC; and Nancy Kanyuk, Environmental Center. The proposed action consists of the construction of three wetland management impoundments to provide nesting and maintenance habitat for endangered waterbirds. The impoundments will provide approximately 65 acres of wetland habitat capable of being flooded to an average depth of 3 feet.

## General Comments

We concur with the rationale presented as to the need for the proposed action to construct three wetland management impoundments at the Hanalei Wildlife Refuge. Previous projects similar to these have usually proven to be quite successful. We would like to offer one recommendation with regard to the water quality in the proposed ponds. While we recognize that the Hanalei River water quality is classified as AA by the Department of Health (DOH), the quality of the river may not in fact meet recreational water quality standards. Since data on Oahu's streams indicates that they frequently contain naturally high concentrations of indicator bacteria such as fecal coliforms, fecal streptococci, enterococci and *E. coli*, there may be some question as to the quality of water in the wildlife refuge; hence, we suggest that the Hanalei River be analyzed now for the above mentioned bacteria so that the data are available for current and future reference.

Mr. James K. Ikeda

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We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document and look forward to your consideration and response to our comments.

Yours truly,

  
Jacquelin Miller

Associate Environmental Coordinator

cc: OEQC

L. Stephen Lau  
Sheila Conant  
Leonard Freed  
Roger Fujioka  
Nancy Kanyuk